415 with long pouring spouts are used to pour out the water for the washing. These washbasins with the water pitchers which accompany them are sometimes made very luxuriously, as show pieces; in Bukhara I was once offered a fine specimen which was gold plated, with beautiful chased work and set with many semi-precious stones, for which the maker asked 300 marks (Figure 92).

Porcelain plates have come into use in Turkestan only in recent times through the Russians. Until that time the natives had only relatively large round plates, quite shallow, with small almost perpendicular rims, similar to our serving plates. These are made of brass or tin-plated copper, are sometimes nearly a meter in diameter and are used only for the serving of fruit, sweetmeats and the countless cups and basins which are carried in all at once for the accomodation of distinguished guests.

276 The (tobacco) waterpipes, which are inevitable in every Turkestan household are called chilim by the Sarts and Uzbeks, and kalyan by the Tajiks, and differ from the water pipes of Turkey. They consist of a hollowed-out gourd container in which reeds are placed at both the top and on one side. The reed at the side serves as the mouthpiece, and the vertical reed for the attachment of the bowl of the pipe, /243/ which consists of burnt clay either unglazed, or glazed in blue or green. In the upper part of the water pipe a small hole is bored on the side. This serves to blow out the smoke during the kindling of the coals which are laid on top of the tobacco, and it must be held shut with the finger during the actual smoking. The poor use the pipe in this simplest form; richer people, on the contrary, sheathe the brown-stained body of the pipe with bronze and decorate the mounting with chased work and mounted turquoises; then they provide the reeds with burnt-in decorations and cover the bowl of the pipe with strings of beads and semi-precious stones, so that this kind of apparatus finally acquires a pleasing appearance. In rare cases the body of the water pipe is made entirely of brass, but even in such cases the vessel always has the shape of a gourd container (cf. Figure 105, 118 and 123).

352 [523] Finally, an article of furniture which is missing in only a few households is the bird cage, for the natives are great bird lovers. The bird cages are made in the same artless fashion as almost all the products of native industry. They consist of a simple round wooden or cardboard box without a lid (discarded Russian hatboxes are often used for this purpose) on which a pointed dome-shaped net is placed made of many-colored cotton yarn. This is held tight by the weight of the box